

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 08/868,407
Atty. Docket No.: 006004.00011

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully ask for reconsideration of both the Office Action of January 23, 2004, and the above-identified application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 11-24, and the indication that claims 2-5 and 7-10 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. In response to this indication, claim 2 is amended into independent form and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 1 is then canceled. Similarly, claim 7 is amended into independent form and to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, while claim 6 is canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-5 and 7-10 are in immediate condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. patent No. 5,504,804 to Widmark et al. Claims 25 and 26 were then rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the Widmark et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,593,778 to Burhrmann et al. Applicants respectfully traverse both of these rejections, but courteously urge that both are now moot. As noted above, claims 1, 6, 25, and 26 are canceled herein. It is therefore requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees are due for the consideration and entry of this Amendment. If, however, the Commissioner deems that fees are due for entry and consideration of this Amendment, or to otherwise maintain the pendency of this application, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees (including any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and §1.17) to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

In view of the above-amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable, and that this application is in condition for allowance.

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Favorable action in this regard is courteously requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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